



DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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TEXAS BISHOP RICHARDSON DIES

HOUSTON -- The Rt. Rev. J. Milton Richardson, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas since 1965, died here on March 24 after a lengthy illness. He was 67 years of age.

He was born in Sylvester, Ga., and received his early education in Macon, Ga. He was a graduate of the University of Georgia, Emory University and the Virginia Theological Seminary. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, Bishop Richardson was awarded several honorary degrees.

He served as a member of the board of trustees of the Church Pension Fund of the Episcopal Church since 1951 and for many years was on its executive committee. He had been chairman of the board since 1977.

He was also a member of the board of trustees of several institutions, including the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, and the Episcopal Radio-TV Foundation, Atlanta. He was formerly a member of the national Executive Council of the Church.

Following his ordination to the priesthood in 1939, he served churches in Georgia, including St. Timothy's Church and St. Luke's Church, both in Atlanta. At St. Luke's, he was assistant rector and then rector, accepting a call in 1952 to serve as dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Houston, where he ministered until his election to the episcopacy.

Reached in London where he is attending a meeting, Church Pension Fund President Robert A. Robinson expressed sorrow and regret upon hearing of Bishop Richardson's death, and termed it "the loss of a great Churchman, leader and fine friend."

A service was held at Christ Church Cathedral here at 10 a.m. on March 26. He is survived by his wife, Eugenia Brooks Richardson, and four children.

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IN PRESS SERVICE

The Episcopal Diocese of Texas has been planning for the election of a bishop coadjutor and now the election of Bishop Richardson's successor is expected to go forward, with a special convention likely in mid-May. Bishop Roger H. Cilley is suffragan of the diocese.

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Note: A photograph of Bishop Richardson is available on request of the DPS office.

